



Washington, D.C. 20505

6 September 1983

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Byrd:

I write as head of the Intelligence Community to express my concern about the "drug czar" portion of the omnibus, anti-drug legislation currently being drafted in the Senate.

When the Congress created the Drug Policy Board in 1984, it adopted a provision that preserved, vis-a-vis the Board, the authorities of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) in the areas of program and budget management and intelligence information protection: 21 U.S.C. §1203(d). When "drug czar" legislation was again introduced in this Congress, many of the bills (including S. 15 and S. 789) contained provisions virtually identical to 21 U.S.C. §1203(d).

Recent drafts of the bipartisan staff working group on the "drug czar" portion of the omnibus bill, however, indicate that while the "intelligence information protection" aspect of existing law was retained, DCI program and budget management authorities were deleted.

I commend the recognition of the importance of protecting sensitive intelligence information. I ask, however, that 21 U.S.C. §1203(d) in its entirety be restored to the bipartisan draft and preserved in any final legislation on this subject.

As you know, the position of DCI was created after World War II in recognition of lessons, painfully learned, that intelligence activities must be centrally directed. These lessons are as cogent today as they were some forty years ago. Indeed, the size and complexity of the demands placed upon the

Intelligence Community to support our nation's policymakers make it even more important that the DCI retain his authorities to manage Community programs and allocate budgetary resources accordingly.

I recognize the importance the President, Congress and the American people place on fighting drugs. The Intelligence Community, for its part, has increased its efforts in this area and will continue to do so.

In the long run, however, weakening the DCI's authorities will not enhance the nation's capabilities to fight the war on drugs. I have no doubt, though, that it will have an adverse impact on our ability to provide timely and meaningful intelligence information.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. Both my staff and I stand ready to discuss the matter with you or your staff at your convenience.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

A copy of this letter is being provided to Senators Dole, Nunn, Glenn, Thurmond, Roth, Boren, and Cohen.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William H. Webster", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY




Director of Congressional Affairs

2 September 1988

NOTE TO: The Director
The Deputy Director

This morning we finally got OMB's approval to send this letter to the Congress regarding our reservations about the overall "drug czar" bill, which undercuts DCI authorities. This letter has been coordinated with Russ Bruemmer and Leo Hazelwood. I recommend you sign it so that we can deliver it to Congressional offices no later than Tuesday, as the legislation will move the middle of next week.

This letter does not discuss the separate "anti-stonewalling amendment" that demands all Federal employees report illegal foreign drug activities to the Congress and GAO. We are still consulting with Justice and the White House on that subject and will have a separate letter, to a somewhat different set of Congressional players, ready to sign early next week.


John L. Helgerson

Attachment



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OCA 2950-88

SUBJECT: Sen. Byrd's letter regarding Drug Czar portion of the
Omnibus Anti-Drug Legislation

OCA/LEG/ [] (2 September 1988)

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Sen. Byrd's letter regarding Drug Czar portion of the Omnibus Anti-Drug Legislation

FROM:

John L. Helgerson
Director of Congressional Affairs

EXTENSION

NO.

OCA 2950-88

DATE

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

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